

Sir William Tyree

Tyree, originally from New Zealand, graduated with a Diploma in Electrical Engineering from Sydney Technical College in 1949. As a young engineer, he spent the best part of a year drawing up an electric motor, breaking it into its component parts ready to be sent to manufacturers for quoting. He then devised a method, not using capital, to have the parts produced, assembled and sold by the manufacturer's agent, thus assuring a positive cash flow from the start. The success of this venture laid the foundation for a highly profitable business which led to the foundation of Tyree Industries Ltd and Westralian Transformers in the 1950s.

In the 1960s and 1970s he bought out the four major British transformer plants in Australia, took out a licence with Westinghouse Electric of the US and became the largest transformer manufacturer in the southern hemisphere. In the 1980s the whole complex was sold to Asea Brown Boveri.

Since the 1980s he rebuilt the Tyree Group, covering a wide range of manufacturing goods in the electrical industry and became one of Australia's 100 largest private companies exporting about 20% of product.

He was recommended for a knighthood in 1975 after scoring three successive years of export awards when Tyree exported more electrical products than any other electrical manufacturing facility in Australia.

Apart from manufacturing electrical equipment, Tyree inaugurated the first computerised medical clinic. Known as Medichack, this multiphase screening clinic operated in Sydney for nearly 30 years. He also pioneered the use of mammograms for breast screening and built the Sydney Square Diagnostic Breast Clinic where this could be carried out.